

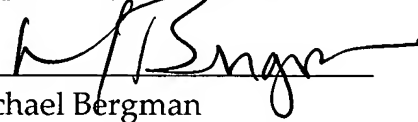
Amendments to the Claims

Original claims 1-4 have been canceled and new claims 5-11 have been added to the application to conform the claims to conventional U.S. practice.

Each of the presently pending claims is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Listing of Claims Including Status Indicators

1. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (New) A binding machine comprising:

a reel, said reel being adapted to receive a band thereon;

a handle, said handle being coupled to said reel, said handle being adapted to receive an applied torque and to transmit said applied torque to said reel, whereby said reel rotates to receive said band; and

a torque indicator, said torque indicator being adapted to indicate a specific magnitude of said applied torque.

6. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 5 wherein said torque indicator comprises:

a handle extension, said handle extension being pivotally coupled to said handle; and

a spring, said spring having a first end coupled to said handle and a second end coupled to said handle extension whereby a deflection of said spring indicates a magnitude of said applied torque.

7. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 6 wherein said handle comprises a first side member and a second side member and wherein said handle extension includes a third side member and a fourth side member, said first and third side members having respective first and second apertures therein, said first and second apertures being disposed about a first end of a pin roll, said second and fourth side members having respective third and fourth apertures therein, said third and fourth apertures being

disposed about a second end of said pin roll such that said third and fourth side members are adapted to pivot with respect to said first and second side members about said pin roll.

8. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 7 wherein said spring comprises a helical spring, said helical spring having a longitudinal axis disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said pin roll, said helical spring having an internal circumference, said pin roll being disposed within said internal circumference of said helical spring.

9. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 5 further comprising:

a body member having an aperture therethrough, said reel being supported within said aperture;

a ratchet, said ratchet being coupled to said reel;

a pawl, said pawl being coupled to said body member, said pawl being adapted to control a motion of said ratchet.

10. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 9 comprising:

a further band, said further band being coupled to said body member, whereby said body member may be disposed in tension between said band and said further band by application of said applied torque.

11. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 5 wherein said torque indicator includes a spring, said spring being adapted to deflect when said specific magnitude of said torque corresponds to an operational tension of said band.